

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079759

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

USDEL SALT TWO

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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PAGE 02 STATE 079759

GENEVA FOR KRAUS ALSO

VIENNA FOR MBFR DELEGATION
HELSINKI FOR MPT
INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. THURSDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED KISSINGER- THO TALKS; FRIDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE HANOI HINTS NEW TALKS DEPEND ON PROGRESS ON US AID AND MINES. THURSDAY INSIDE HAD STORIES ON NUCLEAR TESTING; LATIMES HAD COOK, FREER SHIFT OF PEOPLES TOPS HELSINKI AGENDA. COMMENT IS SCATTERED.

1 A. FRIDAY INSIDE PAPERS HAVE BREZHNEV GETS DETENTE SUPPORT FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE; SOME HAVE DISARMAMENT RECESS; BALTSUN HAS NEW ZEALAND PUSHES NUCLEAR PROTEST; WASHPOST BRIEF REPORTS LE MONDE SAYS RUSSIA HAS LAUNCHED AIRCRAFT CARRIER NOW UNDERGOING SEA TRIALS.

2. HELSINKI, THURSDAY LATIMES HEADED COOK, HELSINKI, FREER SHIFT OF PEOPLES TOPS HELSINKI AGENDA, COOK REPORTING MPT RESUMED WITH THE MAKE- OR- BREAK QUESTION OF THE WHOLE PROJECT NOW AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA-- FREER MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES

AND IDEAS BETWEEN WESTERN AND COMMUNIST EUROPE, COOK ADDING IT HAS TAKEN THE DIPLOMATS SIX MONTHS TO GET DOWN TO CASES ON THIS FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION BECAUSE OF STALINIST INTRANSIGENCE ABOUT LETTING ITS CITIZENS TRAVEL OR READ WESTERN NEWSPAPERS. BUT IF THERE IS TO BE A CONFERENCE BY LATE JUNE, AS DESIRED BY THE RUSSIANS, SAYS COOK, RUSSIANS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SHOW SOME REASONABLENESS ON AN AGENDA ITEM THAT IS UTTERLY FUNDAMENTAL TO EVERY GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN EUROPE, COOK QUOTING WESTERN DIPLOMATS. AT THIS PREPARATORY STAGE, SAYS COOK, WESTERNERS ARE NOT INSISTING ON RUSSIAN AGREEMENT TO ANYTHING-- EXCEPT THAT FREER MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA FOR THE FULL CONFERENCE, AS ONE WESTERN DELEGATE SAID: THERE CERTAINLY IS A MIDDLE WAY BETWEEN SHOWING RESPECT FOR THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY BUT ALSO IMPROVING CONTACTS WITHOUT ENDANGERING ITS SYSTEM.

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PAGE 03 STATE 079759

3. BREZHNEV. MOSCOW AP REPORTS BREZHNEV AT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING WAS UPHELD ON DETENTE POLICY IN QUOTE DEBATE UNQUOTE, WITH ONLY SIX COMMITTEE MEMBERS TAKING PART AND ALL OF THESE CONSIDERED BREZHNEV SUPPORTERS; THEIR APPEARANCE ON PLATFORM INDICATED THAT OPPONENTS TO DETENTE-- IF ANY-- HAD BEEN OUTVOTED OR LACKED THE SUPPORT TO ATTACK THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PLANS, SAYS AP.

3 A. NYTIMES HEDRICK SMITH ADDS WESTERN DIPLOMATS THOUGHT
TIMING OF SPEECH ALSO PRESUMABLY REQUIRED HIM TO GIVE SOME
REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR A EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE,
ON THE EARLY ROUNDS OF SALT TWO, AND THE STICKY MANEUVERING
WITH NATO POWERS OVER THE START OF EUROPEAN FORCE RE-
DUCTION TALKS AT VIENNA.

4. GENEVA. BRIEF WASHPOST AP, HEADED DISARMAMENT RECESS,
REPORTS DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE RECESSED UNTIL JUNE 12
AFTER TEN WEEKS OF DISCUSSION RESULTED IN THE USUAL LACK
OF PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENTS TO BAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND
TO END UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTING.

4 A. NYTIMES HEADS SPECIAL, ARMS SESSION ENDS ON A CRITI-
CAL NOTE, STORY SAYING 25- NATION CONFERENCE ENDED AMID
COMPLAINTS ABOUT A LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE
BAN ON TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OUTLAWING OF CHEM-
ICAL ARMS. STORY SAYS AN AGREEMENT TO HOLD A SERIES OF
INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH SEISMOLOGICAL EXPERTS IN JULY TO
ASSESS THE PROGRESS MADE IN DETECTING UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIONS WAS DESCRIBED AS THE ONLY ACHIEVEMENT OF THE
SESSION. STORY ADDS ROSHCIN SAID THE STAGNATION WAS

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